

## REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-43 were pending in this application. Claims 7-17 and 21-22 were withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claims 2, 7-17, 19, 21, 22, 25, 33, 41 and 43 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1, 18, 20, 23, 26, 30 and 37 have been amended. No new matter has been entered. Claims 1, 3-6, 18, 20, 23, 24, 26-32, 34-40 and 42 will be pending herein upon entry of this Amendment. For the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims pending herein are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action,

- Claims 2-4, 19-20, 25-26, 29, 32-33, 36, 39-40 and 43 were indicated as being allowable;
- Claims 1, 4, 7, 12, 15, 18, 21, 23, 28, 29, 30 and 37 were objected to;
- Claims 20-22 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; and
- Claims 1, 5, 6, 18, 23, 24, 27, 28, 30, 31, 34, 35, 37, 38, 41 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of prior art.

To the extent any of these grounds of objection or rejection might again be applied to any claims now pending in this application it is respectfully traversed.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in this application.

Regarding the claim objections, the Examiner has commented that the plural form of the word “aircraft” should be “aircrafts.” Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner’s position on this matter. As shown in the attached Webster’s New World Dictionary listing, the proper plural form of the word “aircraft” is “aircraft,” as currently recited in the claims. As such, no amendment to the claims is deemed necessary regarding this word, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this particular ground of objection.

Regarding the alleged “identical” nature of claims 23, 30, and 37, although the claims may recite similar subject matter, the wording of original claims 23, 30, and 37 is clearly not “identical.” In any event, as set forth above, claims 23, 30, and 37 have been amended to recite subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner, and the wording of the claims in their amended form now differs even further from one another.

With respect to the §112, second paragraph, rejection, claims 21 and 22 have been cancelled and thus any rejection of those claims is now moot. Claims 20 and 26 have been amended to address the concerns raised in the Office Action. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Finally, in an effort to expedite the prosecution of this application (while still reserving the right to file continuation and divisional applications as deemed appropriate), the independent claims of the instant application have been amended to recite subject matter recited in respective dependent claims that has been deemed allowable by the Examiner. Thus, for example, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the transmission time slot schedule allocates VDL management time slots, as previously recited in dependent claim 2. Independent claims 18, 23, 30, and 37

have likewise been amended to recite allowable subject matter. Consequently, it is believe that the claims, as amended, are allowable over the prior art of record. Withdrawal of the §103(a) rejections is therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time that may be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees required for the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 05-0460.

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Respectfully submitted by:

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